

Message Text

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44

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DEPT PASS DOT FOR RAMUNDO TPI-42

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: US-USSR TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT: MARINE PANEL 2 - ICE

TRANSITING VESSELS (05.0502)

REF: STATE 288664,

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SCICOUNS MET DECEMBER 8 WITH SCST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ALEKSENKO AND PROVIDED HIM BINDER LETTER TRANSMITTED STATE 288664. INFO COPY OF BINDER LETTER WAS TRANSMITTED BY THE EMBASSY TO ISHCENKO UPON RECEIPT. ISHCENKO AND METALNIKOV WERE ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING.

2. SCICOUNS RECOUNTED TO ALEKSENKO THE EVENTS THAT LED TO THE CANCELLATION OF THE U.S. DELEGATION VISIT SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER, URGING THAT SOVIETS BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN ARRANGING DELEGATION AGENDA AND ITINERARY SO THAT THIS VISIT MIGHT BE RESCHEDULED SHORTLY. ALEKSENKO REPLIED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) A DELEGATION VISIT TO ARTIC-ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE IN LENINGRAD CAN BE ARRANGED. SOVIET SPECIALISTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE THERE TO "LISTEN" TO ANY PRESENTATION THE DELEGATION WISHED TO MAKE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED NANSEN PROJECT. ALEKSENKO EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE NANSEN PROJECT WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE COORDINATION WITHIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE SOVITS WOULD DO LITTLE MORE THAN RE-

CEIVE THE U.S. SUGGESTIONS.

(B) ALEKSENKO FIRMLY RULED OUT ANY VISITS TO NUCLEAR ICEBREAKERS BUT OFFERED INSTEAD A VISIT TO A CONVENTIONAL ICEBREAKER SUCH AS THE "YARMAK." IT WAS NOTED THAT THE "YARMAK" WOULD BE IN PORT IN LENINGRAD DURING JANUARY 1977.

(C) ALEKSENKO PROMISED A REPLY SHORTLY TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR AN EXCHANGE OF PAPERS ON "MODEL ICEBREAKER HULL RESISTANCE" AND "ADVANCED PROPULSION SYSTEMS FOR ICEBREAKERS." HE WAS NOT PARTICULARLY SANGUINE ABOUT SOVIET ACCEPTANCE ON THESE PROPOSED THEMES NOTING THAT THEY FALL MORE IN THE CATEGORY OF MARINE CONSTRUCTION RATHER THAN OPERATIONS, THEREFORE WERE NOT WITHIN THE INTEREST OR COMPETENCE OF MORFLOT.

3. AS EXPECTED ALEKSENKO RAISED THE OCEAN WAVE SPECTRA PROJECT ISSUE, AT WHICH POINT ISHCHENKO PRODUCED PITKIN'S LETTER OF JULY 30, 1976 TO BUBCHAK. ALEKSENKO WOULD NOT ACCEPT DOT VERSION THAT NO COMMITMENT WAS MADE CONCERNING THE FURNISHING OF EQUIPMENT, INDICATING THAT THE SOVIETS ARE STILL READY TO USE THE TUCKER WAVE METERS TO CONDUCT THIS EXPERIMENT, AND THAT THEY CONSIDER THE U.S. HAD UNILATERALLY ABROGATED A COMMITMENT.

4. ALEKSENKO CONCLUDED DISCUSSION BY STATING HOPE THAT U.S. DELEGATION VISIT CAN BE RESCHEDULED BEFORE THE NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING BUT ADDED THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS DROPPING THE ICE TRANSITING PROJECT. ALEKSENKO SAID THAT NUCLEAR ICEBREAKERS AND THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE WERE SENSITIVE AREAS TO HIS GOVERNMENT, APPARENTLY RULING THESE OUT AS TOPICS FOR COOPERATION. SCICOUNS RESPONDED TO THIS BY EMPHASIZING THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE OF BENEFITS WITHIN THE MARINE TRANSPORT AREA.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: ALEKSENKO'S RESPONSES APPEAR LITTLE MORE THAN AN EFFORT AT COSMETIC IMPROVEMENT IN THE U.S. DEL ITINERARY. IF HE IS SERIOUS ABOUT DROPPING THE ICE TRANSITING PROJECT, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE FOR THE U.S. TO COUNTER BY DROPPING THE OTHER TWO MARINE PANEL ACTIVITIES, THE BENEFITS OF WHICH APPEAR LARGELY TO BE ON THE SOVIET SIDE. END COMMENT. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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